

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE 1-6-69

FROM : Mr. Jones

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

SYNOPSIS:

UPI release of 1-3-69 announced the formation of National Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Board members of the committee include Bernard Fensterwald; Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney; William Turner, former FBI Agent; Fred J. Cook, author; Richard Sprague, a computer expert; Lloyd Tupling, Washington, D. C.; and Paris Flammonde, author of a book on assassinations, soon to be released. The Director has asked for a memorandum on Fensterwald, Sprague, Tupling and Flammonde.

Fensterwald, former Chief Counsel to Senator Long's committee on wiretapping was subject of applicant-type inquiries conducted by Bureau in 1949 and 1959. The names of Fensterwald's mother and sister appeared on a list of delegates and members in 1942 of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. While employed by the State Department in 1956, Fensterwald and his mother traveled to the Soviet Union.

We have had considerable contact with Fensterwald over the past four years as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (the Long committee). In these contacts Fensterwald has clearly shown he is unscrupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FBI. He frequently sought to involve the FBI in wiretapping probes by Long's committee and in January, 1966, in connection with hearings in San Francisco Fensterwald indicated that ex-Agent William Turner would be one of the witnesses he intended to call in connection with FBI wiretapping. Mr. DeLoach briefed Fensterwald and Senator Long as to Turner's unsavory background. Turner is another board member of the assassination committee.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

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NOT RECORDED SYNOPSIS - CONTINUED OVER

46 JAN 31 1969

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-112697-1

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

In December, 1965, it was obvious that Fensterwald had sent information to Fred Cook, longtime FBI critic, for article in "The Nation" by Cook dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies. Cook quoted Fensterwald as stating, "The thing that has impressed me most is the ease with which Federal agents can lie under oath."

Mr. DeLoach maintained close personal liaison with Senator Long regarding his committee hearings and it was necessary on occasion to contact him regarding letters written over Long's signature to the Bureau requesting certain information. One such instance was in December, 1967, regarding FBI contacts with credit unions. Long stated we should ignore the letter and he would instruct Fensterwald to "keep hands off" the FBI. On same occasion Senator Long advised Mr. DeLoach that Fensterwald had "shot off his mouth too much" in connection with two articles in "Life" magazine dealing with Senator Long which allegedly had been "planted" by Bobby Kennedy.

Fensterwald, who will be Executive Director of assassination committee, left his post as Chief Counsel for the Long committee last month, apparently when Long resigned as Senator in order to give his successor seniority when the present Senate went into session.

No information in Bufiles concerning Paris Flammonde.

No pertinent information in Bufiles concerning Lloyd Tupling who may be identical with individual who was on staff of Senator Richard L. Neuberger in 1954.

Richard Sprague may be identical with individual who contacted Senator Robert F. Kennedy's office in early 1968 regarding his theory that more than one individual had fired shots at President Kennedy when he was assassinated. Sprague had reportedly assisted other individuals who share his views and who were otherwise critical of the Warren Commission findings.

From the above lineup, including Garrison and Turner, it is obvious that we can expect anti-FBI sentiments from such a group.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DETAILS - CONTINUED OVER

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

DETAILS:

A UPI release on January 3, 1969, announced the formation of a new National Committee to Investigate Assassinations. According to Bernard Fensterwald, 47, of Arlington, Virginia, a board member, the committee's purpose is "to embarrass or force the Government to make investigations they have been putting off since November 22, 1963." According to Fensterwald, the committee will concentrate on the assassinations of President Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. In addition to Fensterwald, other members were identified as Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney; William Turner, former FBI Agent; Fred J. Cook, author; Richard Sprague, Hartsdale, New York, a computer expert; Lloyd Tupling, associated with the Sierra Club, Washington, D. C.; and Paris Flammonde, a New York writer who is the author of a book on assassinations, which is soon to be released.

The Director has asked for a memorandum on Fensterwald, Sprague, Tupling and Flammonde.

Bernard Fensterwald: Fensterwald was born on August 2, 1921, at Nashville, Tennessee. He received the B. S. degree from Harvard College in 1942 and the LL. B. degree from Harvard Law School in 1949. He received the M. A. degree in 1950 from the School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D. C.

Fensterwald was the subject of applicant-type inquiries conducted by the Bureau in 1949 and 1959. While generally favorable, the names of Mr. Fensterwald's mother and sister appeared on a list of delegates and members of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, at a meeting held on April 19-21, 1942, at Nashville, Tennessee. Fensterwald and his mother traveled to the Soviet Union in June, 1956, for a three-week vacation visit. At that time, Fensterwald was employed as a lawyer by the United States Department of State.

Fensterwald has been employed on the staffs of a number of Senate committees. In 1953 Fensterwald was employed by the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights (Henning Committee) and was involved in

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

a request to the Bureau from this subcommittee for a list of instances wherein we had furnished information to members of Congress. Senator Henning subsequently advised the Bureau that Fensterwald's requests to the Bureau had been improper. Over the past four years we have had considerable contact with Bernard Fensterwald as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (the Long Committee). In these contacts with Fensterwald it was clearly evident he was unscrupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FBI. He frequently endeavored to draw the FBI into conflicts around the country by his requests of various telephone companies and other sources who might possibly have information of wiretaps and other technical surveillances by the FBI. In January, 1966, in connection with Fensterwald's hearings in San Francisco he indicated that ex-Agent William Turner would be one of the witnesses he intended to call in connection with the extent of FBI wiretapping. Mr. DeLoach briefed Fensterwald and Senator Long who was present at the time of the discussion with Fensterwald as to Turner's unsavory background. Fensterwald indicated he would take a second look at Turner in view of the information furnished by Mr. DeLoach. (Turner is reportedly another board member of the assassination committee)

"The Nation" magazine in December, 1965, carried an article by Fred J. Cook dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies, including the FBI. It was obvious Cook, a longtime FBI critic, had obtained the information for his article from Fensterwald whom he quoted several times. Typical of many of Fensterwald's utterances in connection with his assignment as Chief Counsel of Senator Long's committee was the statement, in "The Nation" magazine article, "The thing that has impressed me most is the ease with which Federal agents can lie under oath."

Mr. DeLoach maintained close personal liaison with Senator Long concerning the work of the FBI as it might pertain to inquiries conducted by his committee. On occasions letters directed to the FBI requesting certain information were handled orally by Mr. DeLoach with Senator Long who indicated that Fensterwald had prepared the letters. One such instance was in December, 1967, in connection with FBI contacts with credit unions. On that occasion, Senator Long stated we should ignore the letter and he would instruct Fensterwald to "keep hands off" the FBI. On the same occasion

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

Senator Long told Mr. DeLoach that Fensterwald has "shot off his mouth too much" in connection with two articles in "Life" magazine dealing with Senator Long which allegedly had been "planted" by Bobby Kennedy. According to the "Washington Post" of 1-3-69, Fensterwald will be the Executive Director of captioned committee. It is noted he left his post as Chief Counsel for the Long committee approximately a week ago, apparently when Long resigned as Senator in order to give his successor seniority when the present Senate went into session. (77-44206)

Paris Flammonde: Bureau files contain no information identifiable with Paris Flammonde.

Lloyd Tupling: During 1954, W. Lloyd Tupling was appointed the Information Officer of the staff of Richard L. Neuberger, Democratic Senator of Oregon. One Lloyd Tupling, University News Bureau, Eugene, Oregon, was listed as a member of the "Society of America's Friends of the Mexican People" as of 8-13-38. This group is no longer in existence and was not investigated by the FBI, although indications were that the group was sympathetic to the communist cause. During May, 1950, one Lloyd Tupling was the publisher of "The State-Wide Newspaper," a weekly published in Boise, Idaho. (100-179915-23)

Richard Sprague: In a Rosen to Mr. DeLoach memo dated 3-26-63, captioned "Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 11-23-63, Dallas, Texas," it was noted that Richard E. Sprague had written to Joseph F. Dolan, Administrative Assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, enclosing a number of photographs taken at the assassination site, and also stating that he was a proponent of the theory that more than one individual was firing shots at President Kennedy when he was assassinated. Bureau, Dallas and New York files contained no information on Sprague at that time, and New York was instructed to conduct a credit and criminal inquiry on him in an attempt to identify him, and these checks were negative.

A review was made of books written by critics of the Warren Commission to determine if Sprague might have collaborated with them. In Josiah Thompson's book, "Six Seconds in Dallas," he acknowledges assistance from one "Richard Sprague" not further identified. Sylvia Leagher, author of "Accessories After the Fact," a severe critique of the Warren Commission,

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

FBI, CIA, Secret Service, and Dallas Police Department, acknowledges the assistance of Richard E. Sprague stating, "I am grateful to Richard E. Sprague for making available a list compiled by him of photographs and films which seem to have been overlooked entirely by the Warren Commission and these investigative agencies."

Sprague wrote us on 7-9-68 along the same vein he had written Mr. Dolan, indicating he had important photographs of the assassination which should be reviewed by us, and also enclosed a research monograph relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. By letter of 7-18-68, we advised Mr. Sprague that the information in his monograph, as well as the photographs, were previously furnished the Bureau by the office of former Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Our files reveal no additional pertinent data concerning Sprague. (62-109060-6520)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109060-6520